Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /178 W

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P R 281726Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9627 INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA

PANAMA FOR REA

MEXICO FOR MEYER

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SZABO MET ON SEPTEMBER 26 WITH ICA MANAGER RAFAEL MARINO AND VICE MINAG HERNANDO LAFAURI TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOC TO OBTAIN FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE AD REFERENDUM FMD AGREEMENT AND TO IMPLEMENT THE CONTROL MEASURES PROPOSED IN THE AGREEMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

2. EXCHANGE OF NOTES. MARINO INDICATED THAT THE GOC WAS MOVING AHEAD TO OBTAIN CLEARANCES NECESSARY FOR RATIFICATION OF THE FMD AGREEMENT AND THAT THE U.S. NOTE HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. HE EXPECTED NO SERIOUS OBSTACLES AND THOUGHT THAT THE EXLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANGE OF NOTES COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE OCTOBER 15.

- 3. CORRECTION OF SPANISH TEXT. MARINO STATED THAT THE CORRECTION SUGGESTED BY DEPARTMENT LANGUAGE SERVICES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE FONOFF TRANSLATORS WHO HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OFFICIAL SPANISH TRANSLATION. SZABO POINTED OUT THE U.S. NEED FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE SPANISH TRANSLATION BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND REQUESTED THAT WE BE GIVEN A COPY OF THE FINISHED TRANSLATION AS SOON AS AVIALABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.
- 4. SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR. MARINO STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH DR. BEASLEY AND THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE SELECTION FOR THE POST OF SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR. HE ADDED THAT ICA WAS ALREADY HIRING COLOMBIAN PERSONNEL FOR THE PROGRAM (ALTHOUGH THE COLOMBIAN DIRECTOR HAS STILL NOT BEEN CHOSEN) AND WONDERED WHETHER USDA HAD LOCATED OTHER TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS THAT IS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR AND OTHER NECESSARY FIELD PERSONNEL TO BE ON LOCATION ASAP AFTER FORMAL RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT. IMPLEMENTATION IS THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONTROL PROGRAM. WHILE THE GOC HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN RECENT WEEKS THE GREATEST MOVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THE VISITS OF DRS BEASLEY AND REA. ALSO SINCE THE CAPABILITY AND MOTIVATION OF COLOMBIAN PERSONNEL LOCATED IN THE FIELD WILL LIKELY BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THAT FOUND IN BOGOTA, USDA ADVISORS SHOULD BE INVOLVED AND IN THE FIELD AT AN EARLY DATE TO ENSURE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AT FIELD LEVEL.

- 5. IMPLEMENTATION ACTION TAKEN BY GOC. MARINO STATED THAT THE DECREE ESTABLISHING LOS KATIOS NATIONAL PARK HAD BEEN APPROVED INTERNALLY AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- 6. CHOCO DEVELOPMENT. THE COLOMBIANS DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF CHOCO DEVELOPMENT DURING THIS MEETING. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED HOWEVER BY ICA OFFICIALS WWTH AGATT IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER MADE BY THE AID MISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HERE TO CONSIDER LOCATING A PILOT PROJECT (ONE OF 20 FOR WHICH APPROVAL HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED) IN THE CHOCO. AGATT INFORMED ICA OFFICIALS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE AID MISSION THAT ICA SHOULD PREPARE THE NECESSARY STUDIES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THIS PILOT PROJECT. WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BOGOTA08045

Document Number: 1973BOGOTA08045 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: BOGOTA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973094/aaaaacwu.tel Line Count: 113 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: morefirh

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 17 JAN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA PANAMA FOR REA

TAGS: EAGR To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005